



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,332	08/02/2001	Shailaja Kasibhatla	1735.0470001/RWE/ALS	5774

26111 7590 05/05/2003

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC  
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

SAUNDERS, DAVID A

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2003

SJ

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	920332	Applicant(s)	KASI BHATLA et al
Examiner	SAUNDERS	Group Art Unit	1644

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

### P r i d for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

### Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disp sition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-3J is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) 1-3J are subject to restriction or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
  - All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Pap r No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Action Summary

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-13 and 28-31, drawn to methods of identifying immunosuppressive agents affecting the caspase cascade, classified in class 435, subclass 7.24.
- II. Claims 14-27, drawn to methods of identifying immunosuppressive agents affecting cell viability, classified in class 435, subclass 7.24.
- III. Claims 32-33, drawn to methods of treatment using immunosuppressive agents, classified in class 514, subclass 1+ and class 424, subclass 278.1+.
- IV. Claims 34-35, drawn to kits and immunosuppressive pharmaceuticals, classified in class 514, subclass 1+ and class 424, subclass 278.1+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation, since the affecting of cell viability, as recited in the method of Group II, has nothing to do with the caspase pathway.

Inventions I and IV are related as process of making (identifying) and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the proviso of claim 34 notwithstanding, the agent could have been identified by other methods. Further, the method recited in the proviso would not impart patentability to any

Art Unit: 1644

known composition (e.g. a tree bark or root extract) which has merely been further characterized as to its inherent properties by the assay of claim 1.

Inventions IV and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product would have other uses. Since one has no idea what the products of Group IV might be, with respect to there structure, it is difficult to specifically name another use, though any agent that would affect the caspase pathway of active T-cells could be used to treat T-cell leukemias. In any case, it is well known that various known immunosuppressive agents have other uses. For example, cyclosporins also have anti-fungal activity, corticosteroids can also be used to treat inflammation, cyclophosphamide can also be used to treat cancer, hydroxychloroquine can also be used to treat malaria.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and different required searches, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

Art Unit: 1644

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A Saunders, PhD whose telephone number is 703-308-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thu., 8:00 am-5:30 pm and on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 703-308-3973. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is 703-872-9306 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

DAS  
May 2, 2003

*David A Saunders*  
DAVID SAUNDERS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 1644